

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1433
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04673

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PO
SUBJECT: LUNS COMMENTS ON HIS LISBON STOPOVER

REF: USNATO 4457 (DTG 061013Z MAY 78)

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1. DURING RECENT TRIP TO OBSERVE EXERCISE OPEN GATE
(REFTEL), SYG LUNS STOPPED OVER BRIEFLY IN LISBON. HE
REPORTED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE AT MAY 9 NAC.

2. LUNS SAID THAT PORTUGUESE MILITARY LEADERS TOLD HIM
THAT THEY WERE KEENLY AWARE OF AND GRATIFIED BY THE "FLOW"
OF US MILITARY MATERIAL TO PORTUGUESE NATO BRIGADE, WHICH
HAS MARKEDLY IMPROVED ITS MORALE. APPRECIATION WAS ALSO
EXPRESSED TO FRG FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION. THE PORTUGUESE
WERE LESS ENCOURAGED BY THE SITUATION REGARDING ASSISTANCE
TO THEIR AIR FORCE AND NAVY, ACCORDING TO LUNS.

3. LUNS WAS ALSO ASKED IN LISBON TO INFORM COUNCIL OF
PORTUGUESE CONCERN ABOUT ALLIED REACTION TO AZORES
INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. DURING PERIOD WHEN PORTUGAL WAS
IN DANGER OF GOING COMMUNIST, SOME ALLIES HAD BELIEVED
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THAT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HAD RIGHT WING ORIGINS. NOW,
HOWEVER, PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT ALLIES
MAY STILL HAVE WRONG IMPRESSION. ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE,
ONLY A SMALL MINORITY OF THE AZORES POPULATION FAVORS
INDEPENDENCE; THE VAST MAJORITY WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR
LINKS WITH PORTUGAL. THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HAS BEEN
INFILTRATED BY LIBYANS, ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE.

4. LUNS RESPONDED TO PORTUGUESE IN LISBON THAT NO NATO ALLY WOULD SUPPORT A MOVEMENT FOR AZORES INDEPENDENCE AND ANY RUMORS TO THAT EFFECT WERE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. THE ALLIES SUPPORT PORTUGAL'S INTENTION TO KEEP AZORES UNDER ITS SOVEREIGNTY.

5. LUNS CONCLUDED HIS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL BY ASKING FOR COMMENTS OR REACTIONS. THERE WERE NONE. BENNETT

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